

NORTHALLERTON 7
Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
AND
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES'
ANNUAL REPORTS,

FOR THE
Year ended December 31st, 1906,

BY
W. BAIGENT, M.D., Medical Officer of Health
AND
Wm. WATSON, Inspector of Nuisances.

NORTHALLERTON :
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF R. PREST, MARKET PLACE.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2991694x>

NORTHALLERTON URBAN DISTRICT.

NORTHALLERTON,

FEBRUARY 7TH, 1907.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1906.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The Annual Report, which I have the honour of again presenting, dealing with the sanitary condition and vital statistics of Northallerton Urban District for the year ending December 31st, 1906, will, I think, be considered a satisfactory one, shewing, as it does, creditable birth and death-rates and an absence of Typhoid Fever, so far as disease contracted in your area is concerned.

Population.

The estimated population to the middle of the year 1906 is 4,129, being an increase of 120 since the last census record, or an average increase of about 23 per year.

TABLE I.

Year.	Inhabited Houses.	Average.	Population.
1901	988	4·05	4,009
1902	997	4·04	4,035
1903	1,008	4·02	4,057
1904	1,048	3·88	4,080
1905	1,109	3·70	4,104
1906	1,125	3·67	4,129

It will thus be seen the average per occupied house has fallen from 4·05 to 3·67 in six years.

Deaths.

Seventy deaths have been registered in your area during 1906, being only one less than last year, but 3·2 more than the average deaths for 10 years past. This gives a death-rate before correction of 16·9 per 1,000 estimated population. There have been 13 deaths in public institutions, seven being non-residents, brought here on account of sickness. These have been referred to their proper localities. This reduces the deaths belonging to Northallerton to 63, giving a *death-rate of 15·2 per 1,000 estimated population*. The previous 10 years' average death-rate is 14·3.

Infant Mortality.

Twelve infants died under one year of age, three of which were under one month old. The mortality per 1,000 births registered is therefore 100·8, which is eight better than the past 10 years' average. Ten of these infant deaths occurred during the autumn months, four of them being due to epidemic Diarrhoea caused by food contamination. None of the infant deaths were those of illegitimate children.

Of the 70 deaths, 15 reached the age of 70 years and over, the oldest being 87 years.

TABLE II.

Under One Year.				Over 70 Years.			
3 hours ...	...	1		70 to 75 years ...	...	5	
1 month ...	...	2		75 to 80 „ ...	...	3	
2 to 6 months ...	...	3		80 to 85 „ ...	...	6	
6 to 12 months ...	...	6		87 „ ...	...	1	
<hr/>				<hr/>			
12				15			
<hr/>				<hr/>			

The 70 deaths were equally divided, male and female, the average age being 38·9 years; the males averaging 38·2, and the females 39·6 years.

TABLE III.

Average Age at Death.		
1899 ...	...	39·4 years.
1900 ...	...	45·3 „
1901 ...	...	35·2 „
1902 ...	...	41·0 „
1903 ...	...	45·3 „
1904 ...	...	41·3 „
1905 ...	...	40·2 „
1906 ...	...	38·9 „

Zymotic Death Rate.

There has been no death from notifiable infectious disease.

TABLE IV.

Year.	Death-Rate.	Zymotic Death-Rate.
1896 ...	9·47	... 0·50
1897 ...	19·3	... 1·27
1898 ...	16·4	... 0·25
1899 ...	12·3	... 0·25
1900 ...	18·0	... 0·50
1901 ...	13·2	... 0·74
1902 ...	12·8	... 0·49
1903 ...	17·7	... 0·49
1904 ...	11·2	... <hr/>
1905 ...	15·3	... 0·41
1906 ...	15·2	... <hr/>

The chief classified causes of these deaths were: — Croup 1, Diarrhœa 5, Tubercular Phthisis 6, other Tubercular Diseases 3, Malignant Disease 2, Bronchitis 4, Pneumonia 7, Heart Diseases 7, Accidents 5, and 26 to other general causes.

Births.

The births registered during the year number 119, 62 being males and 57 females. Three of each six were illegitimate. The birth-rate works out at 28·8 per 1,000 estimated population. The average number of births for the previous 10 years is 112·1, and the average birth-rate 27·9. The birth-rate this year is not quite double the death-rate, being 15·2, against 28·8.

General Health.

The general health of your area has been remarkably good throughout the year, and it is a pleasure to be able to report less infectious disease than any previous year, with the exception of 1905. The cases notified total 29 this year, against 21 last, whereas the average for the previous 7 years was 49·5 cases per year. When we analyse these it is seen that no fewer than 20 of this number were cases of Diphtheria, mostly of a very mild variety, which is important; leaving only 9 cases of other infectious diseases. These will be dealt with in more detail later in this report. Twenty-eight of these were isolated and treated at home, where proper precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and one case only, that of a lodger, was removed to the fever hospital. This is the smallest number treated in the hospital in one year. Last year there were four patients; the average for the previous six years is 15 per year.

During January, September, and November the town was free from infectious diseases, and only one case was notified during April, August, and December.

Eleven cases occurred between the ages of 5 to 15, when children largely associate with each other, and no case ended fatally.

As to other diseases which were prevalent, Influenza must take the foremost place. We had an epidemic during the changeable weather early in the year, and again under similar atmospheric conditions, but of a more severe type, during the closing months.

TABLE V.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.
Scarlet Fever
Typhoid Fever	1
Diphtheria	...	2	7	1	3	3
Erysipelas	1	...	1	...
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	...	2	8	1	4	4

TABLE V.—CONTINUED.

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	1	1	...	2	...	...	4
Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	3	...	...	...	...	1	20
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Membranous Croup	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1	<hr/> ...	<hr/> 2	<hr/> ...	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 29

SCARLET FEVER.

Four mild cases, all treated at home, followed by no further spread. One child contracted the disease away from Northallerton, a second resided at a farm in the Urban area, and the remaining two were in different houses in the town.

TYPHOID FEVER.

The most noteworthy feature of the year, from a sanitary point of view, is the entire absence of Typhoid Fever, attributable to or contracted in the area. Two cases were notified, but in both instances I was able to satisfy myself that the disease had been contracted away from Northallerton, the patients returning when sickening for the disease. This, I think, is the first report for many years containing no record of this disease contracted in the area. Last year the number of these cases was low, viz., 7, the average for the previous seven years being 15 cases. One of these was the only patient isolated in the Fever Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

Diphtheria has been widely distributed in the surrounding district during the greater part of the past year, particularly so in rural areas. In Northallerton, as already stated, 20 of the 29 cases of diseases notified were due to this complaint; sixteen of the cases occurred during the first six months of the year. The majority were of a very mild nature, and although cases occurred in 17 different houses, the disease did not spread to other members of the household after it was once detected.

It is important when Diphtheria is prevalent that the throats of all ailing children should be examined by their parents, as it is not uncommon in Diphtheria for a child not to draw attention to, or complain of the throat, until the disease is well advanced in severe cases, or not at all in mild ones. It is undetected cases of this kind which spread the disease to others, particularly if allowed to go to school, under the impression that the child is suffering from some trifling ailment.

THE FEVER HOSPITAL has been empty during the greater part of the year, but has been always kept in readiness to receive patients on short notice. As already stated, the Typhoid Fever patient was the only case admitted.

Nothing further has been done with regard to the proposed new Joint Fever Hospital.

The Small Pox Hospital, for the second year in succession, has not been occupied.

TABLE VI.

Urban Hospital.						Rural Hospital.					
	Urban Cases.		Rural Cases.		Closed.		Urban Cases.		Rural Cases.		Closed.
1899	...	12	...	5	4 months		11	...	3	...	7 months
1900	...	8	...	8	6 weeks		6	...	4	...	9 months
1901	...	10	...	5	5 months		8	...	4	...	5½ months
1902	...	7	...	12	18 weeks		4	...	5	permanently in May	
1903	...	19	...	1	5 months		...	...	...	...	...
1904	...	5	...	1	5 months		...	...	...	...	...
1905	...	4	...	0	9 months		—	...	—	...	—
1906	...	1	...	0	49 weeks		—	...	—	...	—
	66		32		45 months		30		20		28 months

Total in 8 years :—Urban cases isolated, 96 ; Rural cases, 52.

ANTHRAX.

One fatal case of Anthrax in a milk cow at Wiske Moor Farm was notified by Mr. J. Wright, Deputy Chief Constable, on June 13th. The entire carcase was consumed by fire, in a properly constructed trench made for the purpose.

It cannot be too widely known that fat cattle taken suddenly ill, or found in a dying condition, when apparently in the best of health, are probably cases of Anthrax, and carcases of this kind should not be bled, skinned, or offered for food, without first seeking the opinion of a veterinary surgeon. All parts of the animal, including the blood, contain the germs of the disease, which is readily communicated to other animals or to human beings.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Many houses suitable for the working classes, and some of a larger size, have been built during the past few years, and the supply of such accommodation is at last, I believe, equal to the demand. The result has been that some of the worst and most dilapidated houses in the yards have been emptied, which was most desirable.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A further length of the main sewer, viz., from opposite the Parish Church to the Post Office, has been relaid with sanitary pipes during the year, so that by far the largest portion of the old brick barrel drain

has now been replaced by a sewer of modern and improved construction. This section treated was very uneven and porous, and admitted large quantities of spring water, estimated at 60,000 gallons per day, into the drainage system. It was highly necessary to deal with this before constructing new sewage works, so that the amount of sewage to be treated could be more accurately gauged. New ventilating shafts have been erected at the north and south ends of the sewer, as well as at the junction of the sewers near the Rutson Hospital. These serve their purpose admirably, and absolutely prevent the offensive discharge of sewer gas from the manholes near, which was generally the case before their erection. The practice could, with advantage, be extended to other situations, particularly near the church and the junction of Romanby Road with the High Street.

No alteration in the treatment of the sewage at the Sewage Works has taken place since the last annual report. Some sludge is deposited in the tanks, and the effluent which is not satisfactory is discharged into the Romanby Beck. This beck was running very low during the protracted drought of the autumn, and the whole length of this water-course to its junction with the Wiske was then most offensive as a result of sewage contamination. It is most disappointing it has not been possible to make a commencement with the new sewage scheme. Land was selected, plans were prepared, and a further Local Government Board enquiry was held on March 21st. Pumping of the sewage on to the filter beds was found by the Engineer to be necessary, and the Council also wished to be reassured that in any system they might decide to adopt there would be some guarantee that the tanks would not deposit sludge in such quantities as to interfere with their efficiency, and the filter beds would not choke to such an extent as to require frequent renewal. It was therefore decided to visit and make an inspection of some works where sewage of similar quality and quantity was efficiently treated, and where the scheme had been in working order for such a length of time that reliable data could be obtained, and where the condition of the works after a lengthened trial could be seen. With this object, Darfield Sewage Works were visited by members of the Council on December 8th, and the condition of the works and the character of the effluent noted.

HOUSE REFUSE.

Privy ashpits, many of which are badly placed, dilapidated, offensive, and insanitary, are still numerous in the area. Numbers of these cannot be conveniently approached, if approached at all, by carts, and therefore require their contents to be wheeled in barrows and deposited in the street prior to removal. Some have been abolished of late years, and zinc bins substituted, but the progress is slow. With the contemplated increased water supply and the new sewage disposal works, I

trust more vigour will be shewn in this direction, and the W.C. and zinc dust-bin be the rule rather than the exception, a system which is more sanitary, and will, I believe, prove more economical to the rate-payers.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has continued of the same quality as in former years—pure, clear, soft, and excellent for both drinking and general domestic use. The quantity has unfortunately fallen far short of the average. The springs were running very low for lengthened periods during the unprecedented drought, and the reservoirs were almost exhausted. Great thought and skill required to be exercised to deal with this serious state of affairs in the most efficient and economical manner. All supplies other than domestic ones had to be cancelled; handbills were distributed calling attention to the great scarcity of water and requiring economy to be exercised, waste forbidden, and the supply was also turned off nightly at 8 p.m. from July 21st to October 20th. Although this intermittent supply is wasteful in some respects—householders drawing more than is required to serve the requirements of the night—still the net result was found to be a gain in the reservoirs, so that a continuation of this treatment was found to be justified. By these means the longest drought of modern years was successfully grappled with until the period of anxiety passed away. With the object of obtaining an additional water supply, Kepwick Beck was visited and inspected on March 31st, and for providing additional storage capacity it is proposed to construct a reservoir on Bulla Moor, and land for this purpose has been provisionally purchased.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The model regulations issued by the Local Government Board relating to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops have been considered by your Sanitary Committee, who recommended the Council to adopt the whole of them. These regulations, dealing, as they do, with the handling and storage of milk, the lighting, ventilating, draining, and cleansing of cowsheds, are highly necessary, and such as should be observed, by all who deal in milk for human consumption, in a cleanly manner. Milk is liable to contamination from the moment it is drawn from the udder, and is in consequence a common means of spreading infectious diseases. Milk also given by tuberculous cows has long been suspected, and has now been proved to be a common source of tubercular disease in the human subject, particularly young children; most of the cases of tubercular glands of the neck and abdominal Tuberculosis being the result of direct infection by Bovine Tuberculosis caused by drinking the milk of tubercular infected animals, the bacilli in the one case entering the body through the throat and infecting the neck glands, and in the other through the alimentary canal. When it is

remembered how large a proportion of cattle, amounting to over 25%, suffer from Tuberculosis, it will be admitted how highly necessary regulations of this kind are.

The Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, after five years' laborious work, has just issued the second interim report dealing with this subject. Their finding is of far-reaching importance, as they conclusively prove that man is liable to infection by Bovine Tuberculosis, and that cow's milk containing tubercle bacilli is responsible for many cases of Tuberculosis in man.

Advanced dairymen in some large towns guarantee the milk they deliver to be drawn from non-tubercular animals, charging, and readily obtaining, an enhanced price for their milk. This is a policy to be recommended to the consideration of careful milk vendors.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The condition of workshops and workplaces with regard to cleanliness and sanitation has been found, on the whole, satisfactory during the past year. No serious defects have been found, and no prosecutions have taken place.

One licence is granted for a small underground bakehouse. The other bakehouses are regularly whitewashed and kept generally clean. The W.C. accommodation to some of the workshops is not good. There are no outworkers in the area. Slaughter-houses are still kept in good order, as mentioned in my report last year, and the offal and blood quickly removed off the premises.

I have again to thank your Surveyor, Mr. Watson, for his help during the year now closed in all sanitary matters.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BAIGENT, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Inspector of Nuisances Annual Report

OF THE

Urban Sanitary District of Northallerton.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in again presenting my Annual Report of the Sanitary Work and condition of your district.

In my last annual report I called attention to the fact that a large portion of the working population lived in the yards leading off from the main street, and also pointed out that in recent years great improvements had been made by means of improved sanitary conveniences, reduction of occupants, enlargements, demolition, and occupation for business purposes.

I have pleasure in again being able to report still further progress in this direction. During the year some have been removed altogether, some have been taken for business purposes, while others have been renovated and sanitary conveniences improved; while in others undesirable tenants have been removed.

BUILDING.

Building work has continued, chiefly of houses for which plans were approved last year. It is gratifying to notice that the new property is all occupied, while many of the small cottages in the yards are empty, proving my remark that occupation of the yards in many cases was not a matter of choice. It is also a pleasing fact that not a single ashpit has been built. In every case either W.C.'s or pans have been provided, and as this arrangement insures weekly removal, it is a distinct improvement on the ashpit system.

NOTIFICATIONS.

No statutory notices have been served during the year, and no prosecutions have taken place, as by writing and personally approaching the owners I have been successful in securing the desired improvements, although in some cases extended patience has had to be exercised.

During the summer a farmer just outside your area commenced to import nightsoil and refuse by rail, and lead same during the day through part of your district to his land. The Medical Officer of Health and myself inspected the manure while in the trucks and also while

being carted away, and found it extremely putrid and objectionable. A special meeting of the Council was called, and notice given both to the Railway Co. and farmer, with the result that no further importation took place, and further action was rendered unnecessary.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ashpits improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pans in place of Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	2
New W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	14
New Drainage (3 part system and 2 in iron pipes)						9
Drains improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Blocked Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	1

I do not mention these as being, by any means, the sum total of improvements accomplished, for many inspections and personal conferences occur which result in slight improvements being carried out or defects prevented which cannot find recognition in a report or be entered in a journal, but which, notwithstanding, have their effects for good.

SEWERS.

Two lengths of the worst sewers have been displaced with new sanitary pipe sewers, with manholes built at suitable places for access in case of need and for inspection.

Three ventilating shafts have been erected on the most important points of the older portion of sewerage, which have proved effectual in removing a much complained of and dangerous nuisance from the discharge of sewer gas from the surface grates. There are still one or two other places where ventilation would be a decided benefit.

The sewers have been flushed periodically, as far as the supply of water would allow, but owing to the drought this was not carried out as often as it would otherwise have been.

OVERCROWDING.

Two cases of overcrowding have been investigated, but neither case was such as called for prosecution. One secured extra accommodation, and the other removed.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

I have frequently inspected the slaughter-houses, and have found them generally in fair condition—some excellent. They are mostly in good open positions.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply continues excellent in quality, but in summer not equal to the demand now made upon it; consequently the supply for some time is only intermittent, through being turned off at nights.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been inspected, and have been found to comply with the regulations respecting them. One new one has been added during the year, and one or two removals have taken place.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been inspected, and found in good condition. No new ones have been added.

COWSHEDS.

The cowsheds are the same as last year, both as to number and general conditions. The adoption of the Dairies and Cowsheds Act will enable your Committee to insist upon improvements, which in some cases will be necessary in order to comply with the Act. They are all in good open positions, which help to neutralize other defects.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

The common lodging-house reported last year is still in existence, and under the supervision of the Inspector of Police. No new ones have been added.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

This year has again been remarkably free from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, and others of a serious character, those occurring being mostly a mild form of Diphtheria. The Fever Hospital has been generally empty, and the fever pans in the store unused. Where cases have occurred, disinfectant has been supplied free, and fumigation of the rooms by means of formalin gas.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging (nightsoil) continues to be done by your own men and free and hired carts, monthly rounds being observed as far as possible in all cases, while some are cleared fortnightly, and a great many weekly.

The method of cart supply and absence of a tip leaves much to be desired, as it is most difficult to keep up when most urgently needed. The provision of own carts and tip, or definite binding contract for regular supply of carts and tip, is a much needed improvement, and one which I hope will be shortly accomplished.

GENERALLY.

Generally speaking, the sanitary condition of your district is fairly good, and while there is room for a higher standard, *no black spots exist*.

A firm hand in dealing with defects as they arise, and alertness on the part of the Building Committee to prevent cottages being built on the least possible space (thus creating future slums), will, I trust, help not only to maintain the present standard, but tend to raise it.

I beg to thank the Committee and members and the Medical Officer of Health for the help accorded me during the past year, and trust that with the combined effort further progress may be recorded in the year upon which we have entered.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WM. WATSON.